



## State Conservation Committee

PO Box 2042 • Concord NH 03302-2042

**May 21, 2015 • Meeting Summary**

*NH Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH*

### **Members/designees/advisors present:**

Dea Brickner-Wood, Moose Plate

Grant Coordinator

Linda Brownson, Coos and Grafton  
CCDs

Nik Coates, NH Association of  
Conservation Commissions

Rick Ellsmore, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Ted Howard, University of NH  
Agricultural Experiment Station

Amanda Littleton, CDEA-NH

Jennifer Gornnert, NH Department of  
Agriculture, Markets & Food

John Parker, Hillsborough and  
Merrimack CCDs

Jay Phinizy, Farm Service Agency

Lori Sommer, NH Department of  
Environmental Services

Sabrina Stanwood, Department of

Resources and

Economic Development

Peter Throop, Cheshire and Sullivan  
CCDs

### **Member/designees/advisors absent:**

Rich Cook, NH Fish and Game  
Department

Roger Noonan, NH Association of  
Conservation Districts

Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative  
Extension

Vacant, Belknap and Carroll  
CCDs

Vacant, Rockingham and Strafford  
CCDs

### **Minutes Recorder:**

Stacy Luke, Merrimack CCD

Linda Brownson, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:08 am and welcomed everyone.

### **Consent Agenda**

SCC members went around the table highlighting aspects of their Agency/ Organization/ District reports or added theirs at this point. Highlights include:

- Ellsmore discussed the listing of the Northern Long Eared Bat and how that affects NRCS funded projects. Stanwood discussed the Northern Long Eared Bat as well and stated that if there are any questions to please call her.
- Sommer reported on a new vernal pool reporting form and updates of the wetland mitigation rules. Sommer also reported on HB464, which passed the day previously.

- Gornnert reported on the ANM Grants and discussed the Hillsborough CCD funded project.
- Stanwood discussed the hiring of a new Environmental Reviewer, Amy Lamb.
- Howard reported they were hiring a new tenure track Agricultural Engineering professor along with a Forest Management Research faculty member. He also discussed the Climate Hub with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Coates reported that NHACC has hired a grant writer and will soon hire an Administrative Assistant. They are undergoing a Strategic Planning process with a new Business Plan as the next step. The Annual Meeting will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> with a Back to the Future theme.
- Coates also reported on SB38, which will create a State Conservation Plan. Discussion ensued as to how the SCC and Districts could have a voice in creating the State Conservation Plan. Gornnert stated she would talk to Commissioner Merrill about this. Luke stated she would attend hearings, if possible, and inform Lionel Chute of Sullivan County about this bill and ask if he would be interested in attending hearings. Brownson stated she would write a letter about including the State Conservation Committee in this endeavor.
- Throop reported on Cheshire CCD's farm viability program, their 26 Localvore projects, partnering with the Housing Authority on their SNAP doubling program, and on Monadnock Menus.
- Littleton reported on CDEA's quarterly meeting, its emphasis on statewide projects, and exploring the effectiveness of Local Work Groups.
- Brownson reported on Grafton County's town hall meeting with Rep. Kuster, Grafton CCD's blueberry workshop, and their Local Work Group meeting.
- Brownson also reported on Coos CCD's new District Manager Sarah Kilbourne, who is a recent SUNY graduate in Agricultural Business Administration. Ms. Kilbourne started this week.
- Phinizy shared handouts on FSA programs and stated the AD-1026 needs to be filed at the local FSA office by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the February 19, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Stanwood motioned to accept the minutes. Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Conservation "Moose Plate" Grant Program Coordinator's Update**

Brickner-Wood reported that the Conservation Grant Program is going well. In the last quarter, there has been four closings and one extension of a 2013 grant. Brickner-Wood had a presence at the Saving Special Places conference and discussed the integration of the website by this summer. Brickner-Wood passed out the new flyer "What is a Moose Plate?"

Brickner-Wood stated the grant committee met in April to go over the application. Brickner-Wood distributed the newly restructured application and discussed their goal of moving away from partial funding in order to more fully fund projects. The SCC reviewed proposed changes to the grant application. Throop added that the Mooseplate should be part of the funding mix,

not all of the funding. The grants subcommittee discussed the possibility of moving to a preproposal in future years.

Sommer moved to approve the revisions of the Conservation Grant Program application as presented. Throop seconded the motion.

## **Conservation “Moose Plate” Grant Program Coordinator’s Contract Renewal**

Brickner-Wood presented two proposals for her contract renewal as the Conservation Grant Program Coordinator. The SCC discussed the work load of the position and the two proposals. Stanwood stated Brickner-Wood works hard to be efficient. Throop stated that program development hours are an investment to the program.

Coates motioned to renew Brickner-Wood’s contract as the Conservation Grant Program Coordinator for the NH State Conservation Committee with the following changes:

- \* Increase the number of hours to an estimated 672 hours (84 days) and maintain expense budget (budgeted at \$1,000, allowable up to \$2,000).
- \* Annual budget of \$38,000, with up to \$2,000 for expenses. The total two-year contract would be \$76,000, with up to \$4,000 for expenses.
- \* Maintain level of services, allow for an estimated additional 4 days to respond to program items, including those identified by the GRC: electronic filing, program analysis for pre-proposal and full proposal option, or assisting in a grant writing workshop.

Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **State Conservation Committee Updates**

### ***Vacant SCC Positions***

Pending approval by the Governor and Council; Bob Goodrich will replace Jim Raynes as the Rockingham/ Strafford CCD representative and Earle Chase will replace Bill Stockman as the Belknap/ Carroll CCD representative.

### ***Update of the SCC Website***

Brownson updated the SCC on the update of the SCC’s page on the new Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food website. Brownson passed around the outdated agency information and asked people to update the information. Brownson also asked for photographs to put on the website.

## **Elections**

Throop motioned to re-elect Linda Brownson as chair of the State Conservation Committee. Sommer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sommer motioned to re-elect John Parker as vice-chair of the State Conservation Committee. Stanwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Stanwood motioned to re-elect Lorraine Merrill as treasurer of the State Conservation Committee. Throop seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Supervisor appointments, reappointments, and filling unexpired terms**

Parker presented the qualifications for the candidates nominated for Merrimack County.

A nomination for reappointment was submitted for Gerald Courser, Merrimack County Conservation District.

A nomination for appointment was submitted for Audra Klumb, Merrimack County Conservation District.

Throop moved to approve the above nominations. Sommer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Review of Disposition of State Lands Policy**

Brownson discussed CORD reviews and sought to make the process more meaningful. The SCC is not mandated by state statute to review Disposition of State Lands but they can contribute important feedback. Brownson proposed having a Surplus Land Review Coordinator or a committee to review and make recommendations to the SCC. Throop commented that the deadlines often do not coordinate with the SCC's quarterly meetings and suggested that the Districts respond to the SCC within a certain timeframe; this would offer local District knowledge.

Brownson stated she would rewrite the proposal to reflect the recommendations of the SCC board and review it at the August meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Parker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Throop seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

**The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2015, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at NH Department of Environmental Services in Concord, NH.**